

LAND PLANARIANS FROM FIJI, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

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(Plate VII., figs. 9 and 11.)

Some time ago I received from my brother, Mr. F. W. Steel, a small collection of planarians, comprising three species, which he made on the Navua River, Viti Levu. Two of these proved to be undescribed, and are, so far as I am aware, the first recorded apparently indigenous planarians from Fiji.

BIPALIUM KEWENSE, Moseley.

This interesting worm was found common under logs on the Navua River.

GEOPLANA TRIFASCIATA, n.sp.

(Pl. vii., fig. 9.)

The following description refers to spirit preserved specimens:— In median dorsal line a bold broad band of very dark brown running from tip to tip. Close to the margin on either side another similar band not quite so wide as the median one, the space between the median and marginal bands being nearly white and of about the same width as the median band. Ventral surface white, with a dim band of same colour as the dorsal ones close to each margin.

A single row of eyes round anterior tip and down each side for at least half way. No grouping of eyes could be traced in the specimens at my disposal. The pharyngeal aperture about one-third from anterior end. Position of genital opening not clearly made out, but apparently about midway between the other and the posterior end.

Length in spirit 13 mm. by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. broad.

Type in Australian Museum, Sydney; register number G. 1517.

*Hab.*—Navua River, Viti Levu, Fiji. In a compost heap made up of sugar-mill refuse. (Mr. F. W. Steel.)

This very small species was found burrowing in a heap of compost, which seems rather a curious habitat for a planarian. It is remarkable as being still smaller than *G. parva*, mihi, from Queensland, and in being, Mr. Fletcher informs me, the first *Geoplana* described from any of the South Pacific Islands.

RHYNCHODEMUS SCRIPTUS, n.sp.

(Pl. VII., fig. 11.)

Description of spirit preserved specimens:—The ground colour of the dorsal surface a very pale shade of brown. Anterior tip dark brown, running into a bold band on either side, which quickly diffuses backward into a marginal line composed of minute crooked and branching stippings or marks. These lines continue down the margins, rather plainly defined until they coalesce at the hinder extremity, starting just behind the meeting of the bold brown bands; at the anterior tip there is a similar pair of dorso-medial bands; these start from a common point and run backwards to near the posterior end where they join, thus enclosing a median space of ground colour. Like the marginal bands, the dorso-medial ones are composed of minute irregular markings which, under the microscope, somewhat resemble Oriental written characters. Towards the anterior end of the bands these markings are somewhat crowded together and of darker colour, making this part more strongly marked. In colour the markings composing these bands vary from pale rufous to very dark brown. The central and intermediate spaces of ground colour are lightly speckled with markings similar to those composing the bands. In some specimens the medial bands tend to coalesce inwards to form a very broad, sparse, exceedingly irregular band.

Ventral surface somewhat irregularly peppered with speckles similar to those on dorsal surface, which are usually more or less

grouped to form an ill-defined pair of longitudinal lines near the margins and running from tip to tip.

Eyes two, situated as usual near the front end. Owing to the specimens being much curled and broken I could not satisfy myself as to the relative positions of the apertures, but so far as I could make out the pharynx is situated about the centre of the body, and the genital aperture midway between that and the hinder end.

Length of one specimen about 25 mm. by 3 mm. broad; another 22 mm. by 2 mm.

Type in Australian Museum; register number G. 1518.

*Hab.*—Navua River, Viti Levu, Fiji. Found in same situation as, and associated with, preceding species. (Mr. F. W. Steel.)

This worm bears a strong resemblance in general appearance to (though considerably smaller) *R. dubius*, Spencer, from Lord Howe Island†. It is distinguished by the arrangement and structure of the dorsal markings and by the presence of the ventral lines.

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#### EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

##### Plate VII.

Fig. 9.—*Geoplana trifasciata*.

Fig. 11.—*Rhynchodemus scriptus*.

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† Trans. R.S. Vict. 1891, p. 48.